

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method comprising:

initiating a backup operation on a set of data from a first computing device;

creating a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data at the first  
computing device;

sending the logical representation to a second computing device;

validating that the set of data corresponding to the frozen image has not been  
modified after an initiation of the backup operation; and

upon a successful validation,

reading the set of data from the frozen image from the second computing device;

and

writing the set of data to a storage medium.

22. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:

upon an unsuccessful validation,

producing a remapped frozen image at the first computing device;

sending changes in the remapped frozen image to the second computing device;

reading changed data corresponding to the changes in the remapped frozen image  
from the second computing device; and

writing the changed data to the storage medium.

23. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:  
using input/output (I/O) operations provided by an operating system in use at the second  
computing device to read the set of data.
24. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:  
using input/output (I/O) operations provided by an operating system in use at the second  
computing device to write the set of data.
25. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the logical representation includes one  
or more storage extents.
26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:  
associating a configuration identifier with the frozen image; and  
modifying the configuration identifier upon a modification of the set of data associated  
with the frozen image.
27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the validating comprises verifying that  
the configuration identifier has not changed after the initiation of the backup operation.
28. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:  
using error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second  
computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the reading and  
the writing.

29. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the set of data includes at least one of a file, a set of files, a file system, a set of file systems, a volume, and a set of volumes.

30. (New) The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the set of data is stored at one or more storage devices interconnected to the first and second computing devices by a storage area network (SAN).

31. (New) A system comprising:  
a first and a second computing device;  
a first and a second storage medium;

wherein the first computing device is configured to:

initiate a backup operation on a set of data stored at the first storage medium;  
create a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data; and  
send the logical representation to the second computing device;

wherein the second computing device is configured to:

validate that the set of data corresponding to the frozen image has not been modified  
after an initiation of the backup operation; and  
upon a successful validation, read the set of data from the first storage medium and write  
the set of data to the second storage medium.

32. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein, upon an unsuccessful validation, the first computing device is further configured to:

produce a remapped frozen image of the set of data; and  
send changes in the remapped frozen image to the second computing device;  
and wherein the second computing device is further configured to:  
read changed data corresponding to the changes in the remapped frozen image from the  
first storage medium; and  
write the changed data to the second storage medium.

33. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31; wherein the second computing device is further configured to use input/output (I/O) operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to read the set of data.

34. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the second computing device is further configured to use input/output (I/O) operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to write the set of data.

35. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the logical representation includes one or more storage extents.

36. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the first computing device is further configured to:

associate a configuration identifier with the frozen image; and  
modify the configuration identifier upon a modification of the set of data associated with  
the frozen image.

37. (New) The system as recited in Claim 36, wherein the second computing device is further configured to validate that the set of data corresponding to the frozen image has not been modified after an initiation of the backup operation by verifying that the configuration identifier has not changed after the initiation of the backup operation.

38. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the second computing device is further configured to use error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the reading and the writing.

39. (New) The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the set of data includes at least one of a file, a set of files, a file system, a set of file systems, a volume, and a set of volumes.

40. (New) The system as recited in Claim 34, wherein each storage medium of the first storage medium and the second storage medium is interconnected to the first and second computing devices by a storage area network (SAN).